



AF Key Themes and Messages

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A monthly publication to alert Airmen of key themes and talking points.



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AF Priorities

Enduring Themes

We continue to be vigilant in the pursuit of the enemy in the Global War on Terror (GWOT)

• Our first priority is to maintain focus on winning the Global War on Terror to ensure the safety and security of our Nation and its citizens. The character and capabilities of our enemies are increasingly uncertain, veiled, growing, and constantly changing. AF capabilities are integral to an interdependent force.

Develop and Care for Airmen and their families (Airmen)

• Our active duty, Guard, Reserve, and civilian Airmen are our most valuable assets in fighting the GWOT and ensuring we are the world's dominant air, space, and cyberspace force. Airmen enable continued transformation to a more agile and capable force. We are making sure Airmen are properly educated, trained and equipped.

Recapitalize and Modernize Air, Space, & Cyberspace Systems (Recap)

• The Air Force continues to become more capable, more efficient, and more lethal. Modernization includes aggressive divestment of legacy platforms and significantly enhances what our AF brings to combat operations. We are reorganizing to create efficiencies and synergize the strengths of our Total Force. The generated savings enable us to acquire needed capabilities to counter threats worldwide.

Talking Points

Talking Points reflect top issues supporting AF priorities, initiatives, and programs. Senior leaders at all levels should use these to ensure AF priorities are communicated accurately and consistently.

60th Anniversary & AF Memorial Dedication

- The year-long event's theme is “From Heritage to Horizons – Commemorating 60 Years of Air & Space Power.”
- This **first ever** AF Memorial in Arlington, VA pays tribute to the dedication, sacrifice and contributions of those who pioneered the skies, those who shape the air, space, and cyberspace victories of today, and those who will continue to do so in the future.
- The Memorial honors the millions of men and women who have served in the USAF and its prior organizations, including the U.S. Signal Corps, the Army Air Corps, and the Army Air Forces.

Budget Challenges

- In 15 years, we have become smaller and leaner while engaged in combat ops. FY07 Budget funded a leaner, more agile, and lethal AF that meets current and future joint warfighting requirements through key investments vetted/validated through the QDR.
- We face unexpected demands on our resources – rising fuel prices, costs of war, system retirement restrictions. Fiscal pressures: The AF has lost over \$31B in budget authority since Dec '04 and approximately \$10B per year in buying power.
- We are transforming our force in an effort to guarantee that we will dominate air, space and cyberspace now and into the future. Without transformation, shortfalls in the budget will mean that the AF cannot provide the air and space capabilities America needs.
- We must ensure our force is structured to meet future emerging threats; that means tough decisions about size, shape, and structure to meet our obligations as an interdependent force.

AFSO21

- We will march unnecessary work out the door – forever – with AF Smart Operations 21. AFSO21 centers on the processes of the work we do and gives us permission to find better ways to do our jobs – eliminate waste and strengthen value.
- Maintaining our advantage as the world's best Air Force demands we make our work more manageable, streamlined, and efficient. Every Airman's focused effort on working smarter delivers warfighting capabilities.
- We will use the savings generated in a constrained budget environment to recapitalize and modernize air, space, and cyberspace systems. It's about how to get the job done better.

Battlefield Airmen

- Battlefield Airmen are AF special tactics and operations forces who offer joint warfighters Total Force Airmen trained to operate in hostile, uncertain, and unpermissive environments and under severe environmental conditions.
- There are five mission areas that make up the Battlefield Airmen core group: Joint Fires Integration; Tactical Airlift Ops; Special Ops; Weather Support Ops; Personnel Recovery/Recovery Ops.

Force Shaping

- Meeting the priority to develop and care for Airmen, we are committed to securing the best equipment, training, and education. We have to find more innovative ways to do what we do to ensure we have the necessary resources to fight the GWOT and to recapitalize and modernize.
- We will reduce manpower by ~40K FTEs and contract funding by 25% as part of our transformation. We will shape our force to meet our mission with the right number of people with the right skills for the joint warfighter.
- We will continue to use voluntary reductions as much as possible, but will conduct non-voluntary reductions when necessary. We will help those who leave the Air Force.

Total Force Integration

- These initiatives enhance the Total Force organization increasing capabilities, gaining efficiencies, and ensuring an operationally ready Guard and Reserve with the right equipment, right now.

- The Total Force team is essential in accomplishing our mission and has enabled the Air Force to sustain its critical contribution to our nation's fight in the GWOT – remaining at war in the U.S. and overseas via the AEF CONOPS.

Space

- AFSPC is actively supporting the long war on terror with over 1,100 Airmen deployed downrange. They are also deployed “in place” directly supporting the combatant commander, 24/7.
- Space situational awareness: SSA is the keystone to the dominance of space, and we will provide transformational space surveillance and modernized legacy capabilities. The space environment has changed. We must know what is up there to provide assured access to space for America.

Cyberspace Domain

- Military operations in cyberspace cannot be a pick -up game. Therefore, we are standing up an operational command for this domain, capable of functioning as a supported or supporting component of the Joint Force.
- Cyberspace is where the nation's neural network resides. As a preeminent nation with a technologically advanced military, we cannot afford to expose that neural network. We must be properly organized, trained, and equipped – fully prepared and ever vigilant to protect it.

Bomber Futures

- A new long-range strike platform – **Phase 2** – is *the* critical piece to upgrading our portfolios to ensure range and payload, the soul of our AF, and persistent access in enemy environments for the next generation.
- Our three-phased approach: **1:** modernize legacy fleet; **2:** leverage near-term technology to field next generation bomber capability in 2018 timeframe; **3:** push system-of-systems technology for advanced speed, range, precision, connectivity, survivability – 2035 timeframe.

Fifth Generation Fighters

- **F-35 Lightning II:** 5th Generation, multi-role, stealth, precision strike fighter meeting operational needs of AF, Navy, USMC, and Allies.
- **F-22A Raptor:** 5th Generation multi-role, stealth, air dominance fighter, with precision strike and ISR capabilities, countering existing and emerging threats our legacy systems cannot – integrated avionics, advanced stealth and super cruise make it second-to-none in capability.
 - It is the best value for the money today. The “fly-away” cost for the most recent lot of F-22As is \$136.6M.
 - Total Force Airmen fly the F-22A today—77 delivered, 30 in production, 37 combat coded at Langley. “The Future of the AF is the F-22. We believe it underpins everything we do.” *COMACC*

CSAR-X

- Combat search and rescue is a core AF competency that must be recapitalized—we will leave no one behind on the battlefield.
- The AF provides all-weather combat search and rescue worldwide - providing the Joint team a critical safety net.
- Expect aircraft delivery starting in FY11, continuing until FY20.

KC-X

- We need to start recapitalizing our aging tanker fleet now, and the most cost-effective option is a fleet of new medium-to-large commercial derivative tankers. The AF has resumed a transparent and competitive tanker replacement program.
- Release of the draft request for proposal occurred 25 Sep 2006. We expect to release the final RFP in Dec 2006, and project contract award in Sep 2007.

Joint Cargo Aircraft –JCA

- We are DOD's airlift provider, and the JCA will provide a niche capability to support the joint warfighters at home and abroad.
- Brig Gen Dichter, Deputy Director of Joint Integration, “The important take-away message is that the Army and AF have always focused on the same goal – to provide the combatant commanders with the tools they need to do the mission, and in the process of developing new capabilities, to be good stewards for our taxpayer's money. By adopting a common platform, we believe we are doing just this.”

C-17

- MCS & QDR determined 180 C-17s meet DoD warfighting needs supporting current National Military Strategy.
- Discussion continues with regard to high ops-tempo and the accumulating number of flying hours on the current C-17 inventory.

MQ-1/MQ-9

- To meet joint warfighting requirements, we will fulfill our QDR commitment to provide 21 MQ-1 orbits and TFI commitment to stand up 5 ANG Predator units, and ensure a seamless capabilities transition from the U-2 to RQ-4.

DCGS

- Expanded weapons system capabilities and integrated Total Force with two new ANG sites and addition of ARC manpower.

AF Alternative Energy Initiatives

- The AF remains committed to energy conservation and the use of renewable energy. Since 1985, the AF reduced energy consumption enough to power 20,000 average sized homes for 10 yrs. “Green purchases” make up 11% of AF electricity.
- The Air Force is the largest purchaser of renewable power in the U.S. representing over 41% of total Federal purchases of renewable power – equates to reduced pollutant emissions comparable to removing about 30,000 cars from the road annually.

Education

- Our education opportunities must be fully integrated into our Force Development program to ensure synchronization of training, experience, and education.
- Understanding different languages and cultures is especially important in the Global War on Terror where we work with many coalition partners in distant lands. The AF is committed to improving cultural awareness and developing regional expertise.